

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 were presented for examination and 1 through 20 were rejected as obvious over the Aleia patent in view of the Patterson patent.

Additionally, the Abstract was objected to for language and length. The Abstract has been corrected by the above amendments.

As to the reject based on the prior art, applicants respond as follows:

The primary reference to Aleia is directed to an insurance business and, more specifically to a method for managing receivable accounts in the insurance business. The patent does make reference to the fact that its insurance business accounts receivable program may be linked to a number of databases, including bankruptcy databases. There is no teaching or suggestion for an internet based bankruptcy law practice creditor manager system as in the present invention as claimed. The data bases referenced in the Aleia patent are public internet listings of people who have filed or gone bankrupt. There is no teaching or suggestion that this database (and that's all it is, a database for static data) has an interactive capability with information on plans, motions, court proceedings, dates and dispositions, or with different levels of security for courts, attorneys, clients and inquiring third parties, all as in the present invention. It is believed that the Examiner is correct in that the reference teaches a program for attorney involvement in the processing of the accounts, but this is for collections attorneys trying to pursue collections for the delinquent accounts receivable customers in the insurance business accounts receivable program. It is not for bankruptcy practice, as suggested in the examiner's rejection, but

for collections practice and the generation of collections letters, etc. The reference by the Examiner to Aleia's column 12, line 61 et seq. is noted. However, there is no indication in the prior art patent that there is provision for tracking court motions or hearings even in collections cases. The Aleia teaching goes to on line ability to revise criteria for assignment of collection and litigation strategies, not proceedings. It does not relate to court progress or to bankruptcy practice or bankruptcy court proceedings. For these reasons, it is urged that Aleia is lacking in essentials and thus fails to render the present invention obvious.

The secondary reference to Patterson is relied upon for its teachings regarding home pages. The teachings of Patterson are acknowledged, but Patterson does not overcome the shortcomings of Aleia.

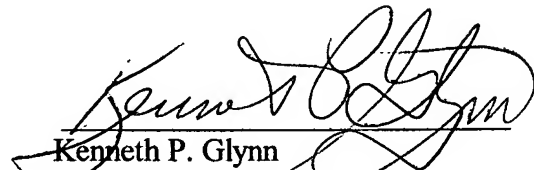
While it is believed that the claims as originally filed distinguish well over these references, applicants have submitted new claims herewith that add more specific emphasis to the bankruptcy practice program and even further distinguish over this prior art. See, for example, the new main claims 21 and 31 wherein it is now specifically recited that the bankruptcy practice program includes a bankruptcy practice program home page that provides access to general case information and links to individual debtor and case information files, and includes access to plans of reorganization for bankrupt clients having plans of reorganization, including documents, links, and plan information, and includes access to bankruptcy court proceedings dates. None of these features is suggested or taught by the references cited and is not rendered obvious thereby.



For all of the reasons stated, it is believed that the rejections should be withdrawn and that all of the claims now pending in the case are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

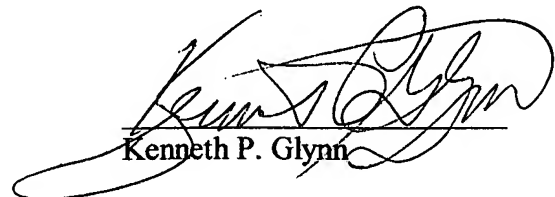
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